

April 10, 2020

St. Louis County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Update

Pets and COVID-19

Some viruses cause illness in people, while others can cause illness in certain types of animals. The CDC is aware of a very small number of pets, including dogs and cats, *outside* the United States that are reported to be infected with the virus. There are no reports of pets becoming sick with COVID-19 *in* the United States, but this information is developing rapidly and further studies are needed to understand if/how animals could be affected by COVID-19.

If you have or believe you have COVID-19, you should restrict contact with pets and other animals. This is just as we would normally do around other people. See if a friend or loved one can care for your animal(s) if you are sick. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with them. These steps can help ensure both you and your animals stay healthy.

Million Mask Drive

The Greater St. Louis Million Mask Drive is a volunteer effort of citizens sewing fabric masks for local healthcare workers and first responders in our region at no cost. Here is a video highlighting how a few people can make a big difference:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3Sb6hUniT4&feature=youtu.be>

For those who would like to donate fabric or volunteer time sewing, please send an email to: greaterstlmask@gmail.com.

This is a specific effort to complement the on-going request for cloth masks for those serving in supportive and in-direct roles. If that support personnel has these items, it would preserve the much needed N-95 masks for the healthcare workers and first responders who must work in direct contact with those confirmed to have COVID-19.

End of the School Year

We will all experience different reactions to the news that the overwhelming majority of school facilities have closed for the 2019-2020 year. We need to be ready to meet the needs of our school-aged children, especially emotional needs. The loss of extracurricular activities and significant events, like graduation and prom, can potentially be a significant one. They will be looking to us, their parents, teachers, coaches, and community leaders, as a barometer to gauge their own reactions. We should look for new ways to celebrate our children's accomplishments and inspire their creativity and resilience moving forward.

The loss of the school year can also mean that food sources for children are exhausted. A list of resources can be found here: <https://stlouisco.com/Your-Government/County-Executive/COVID-19/COVID-19-Resources>

Contact Information

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services hotline can be reached at (877)435-8411.

St. Louis County has created a website dedicated to the dissemination of information relating to COVID-19, www.stlcorona.com. Please visit that website or those belonging to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or the World Health Organization (WHO) for the most current and reputable information.



Sergeant Benjamin Granda

Public Information Coordinator

314-615-4282

bgranda@stlouisco.com